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Atty. Dkt. No. 023971-0357



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Shigeru UNAMI et al.
Title: SINTERED BODY AND PRODUCTION METHOD THEREOF
Appl. No.: 10/758,113
Filing Date: 01/16/2004
Examiner: Ngoclan T. Mai
Art Unit: 1742

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Chinese application, a Chinese Office Action issued on March 25, 2005. According to an English translation obtained by Applicants' representative of the Chinese Office Action, the Chinese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. A copy of the English translation of the Chinese Office Action is attached.

Applicants wish to advise the Examiner that U.S. 4,588,441, cited in the Chinese Office Action, was previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated May 4, 2004, and is not provided herewith.

Documents A3 and A4 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Also, in a counterpart European application, a European Office Action issued on April 29, 2005. The European Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references. A copy of the Office Action is attached.

The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Chinese or European Office Actions.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicants have endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to filing of this Statement.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 3, 2005

By

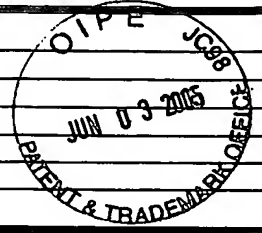


FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: June 3, 2005 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Complete if Known <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Application Number</td> <td>10/758,113</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>01/16/2004</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Named Inventor</td> <td>Shigeru UNAMI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Group Art Unit</td> <td>1742</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Ngoclan Thi Mai</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>023971-0357</td> </tr> </table>		Application Number	10/758,113	Filing Date	01/16/2004	First Named Inventor	Shigeru UNAMI	Group Art Unit	1742	Examiner Name	Ngoclan Thi Mai	Attorney Docket Number	023971-0357
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	5,540,883		JONES ET AL.	07-30-1996	
	A2	6,332,904	B1	FUJIKI ET AL.	12-25-2001	
	A3	6,514,307	B2	NAKAMURA ET AL.	02-04-2003	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	A4	CN	1344814		KAWASAKI STEEL CO.	04-17-2002	Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.